FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY
of
THE OPENING OF
THE MILLICENT LIBRARY
Fairhaven, Mass.

January, the Thirty-first
Nineteen Hundred Forty-three

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Reynolds Printing
New Bedford

Fairhaven. Feb. 22, 1894

To the Officers of the Millicent Library

I am glad to have seen it. It is the ideal Library, I think. Books are the liberated spirits of men, & should be bestowed in a heaven of light & grace & harmonious color & sumptuous comfort, like this, instead of in the customary kind of public library, with its depressing austerities & severities of form & furniture & decoration. A public library is the most enduring of memorials, the truest monument for the preservation of an event or a name or an affection; for it, & it only, is respected by wars and revolutions, & survives them. Creed and opinion change with time, & their symbols perish; but Literature & its temples are sacred to all creeds, & inviolate. All other things which I have seen to-day must pass away & be forgotten; but there will still be a Millicent Library when by the mutations of language the books that are in it now will speak in a lost tongue to your posterity.

Truly Yours
Mark Twain

Mark Twain's comment on The Millicent Library, February 22, 1894

THE MILLICENT LIBRARY

Was founded and given to the Town of Fairhaven by Mrs. William E. Benjamin, Mrs. Bradford F. Duff, Mary H. Rogers and Henry Huttleston Rogers, Jr., children of Henry Huttleston and Abbie P. Rogers of New York, as a memorial to their deceased sister, Millicent G. Rogers. The land on which the library stands was acquired in the fall of 1890, and the work of construction began June 21, 1891. The corner stone was laid September 21st of the same year.

Bronze Tablet set in wall over vestibule doors

THIS LIBRARY WAS FOUNDED
IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE
OF
MILLICENT GIFFORD ROGERS
BY HER BROTHER AND SISTERS
ANNE ENGLE BENJAMIN
CARA ROGERS DUFF
MARY HUTTLESTON ROGERS
HENRY HUTTLESTON ROGERS JR.

It was on Saturday, December 10, 1892 that the Townspeople attended a special meeting to see if the Town would vote to accept for the sum of $1.00 the land and the Library Building thereon. The condition and the terms of the gift follow:

"*Whereas* it is the purpose and the intent of the grantors in making this conveyance to give to the inhabitants of the Town of Fairhaven a Free Public Library as a memorial of our sister, Millicent G. Rogers; and *whereas* a building appropriate to the uses of such a library has now been erected on said land, and our wish is that said building shall forever remain as at present built, without enlargements or alterations: and *whereas* it is also our purpose and design that the inhabitants of Fairhaven, as a municipal corporation, shall be under no obligation whatever to support or maintain said library: now therefore this conveyance to said inhabitants of Fairhaven is made in trust for the following uses and purposes, viz:—

First: Said land and the building thereon shall never be used for any other purposes than for a free library.

Second: Said free Public Library shall be named The Millicent Library.

Third: The building now standing on said land shall not be changed, altered or enlarged externally unless the same is substantially destroyed by fire or other casualty. . .

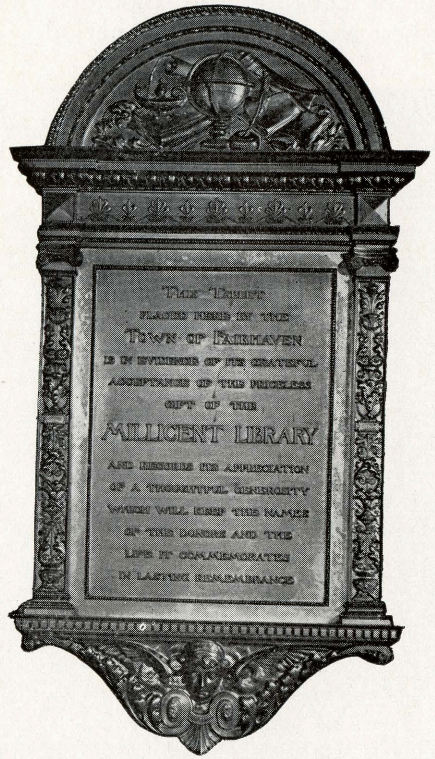
Fourth: The land above described which is not occupied by the building used for a library shall not be occupied by any other building whatever.

Fifth: The inhabitants of Fairhaven, as a municipal corporation, shall in no event be under any obligation whatever to maintain said land and building for the purposes of a free public library, or to repair and preserve said building or to be at any cost or expense in relation thereto.

Sixth: In the execution of this Trust, the exclusive control, management and care of said land and building shall be exercised by the Millicent Library Corporation, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To Have and To Hold the above granted premises with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said inhabitants of Fairhaven, a municipal corporation, and its successor and assigns in fee simple forever, but strictly in Trust, nevertheless for the uses and purposes aforesaid."

THE GIFT ACCEPTED

The welcome and generous gift of this free public library was accepted by unanimous vote and the tablet of acceptance is evidence of the gratitude of the townspeople.



Bronze tablet set in wall at right of door leading to Children's Room

THIS TABLET
PLACED HERE BY THE
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
IS IN EVIDENCE OF ITS GRATEFUL
ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRICELESS
GIFT OF THE
MILLICENT LIBRARY
AND RECORDS ITS APPRECIATION
OF A THOUGHTFUL GENEROSITY
WHICH WILL KEEP THE NAMES
OF THE DONORS AND THE
LIFE IT COMMEMORATES
IN LASTING REMEMBRANCE

ABOUT THE BUILDING

The Library was designed by Charles Brigham, architect, of Boston, in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and many of the models for detail in carving and moulded work have been selected from the best examples of that period.

The Millicent Library

The exterior of the building is of granite with all decoration in terra cotta. The granite of the basement is from Stony Brook and the walls above are of Dedham stone similar to that used in Trinity Church in Boston. The terra cotta is buff in color and highly ornamented. The roofs are of red slate and all metal work connected therewith of heavy copper. The oriel window in the librarian's room is an excellent specimen of copper work, moulded and repoussé.

The decoration of the interior was a matter of careful study for the architect and artist. The brick interior walls are decorated with an elaborate pattern of harmoniously blended colors. The mantelpieces of beautiful oak are exquisitely carved with emblematic figures and scrolls. The entablatures around the principal rooms are decorated in high relief with escutcheons and garlands. The door and window pilasters are paneled with reproductions of famous Italian bas-reliefs.

THE DEDICATION

The dedication of the Library on the bright and beautiful morning of January 30, 1893 began with the gathering of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and the trustees awaiting in solemn reverence the unveiling of the memorial window. "A sweet and holy quiet seemed to prevail as if the spirit of the fair maiden, now clothed in 'celestial grace' had sent down upon earth her blessing in benediction."

The memorial window (see frontispiece) was made by Clayton & Bell of London. It occupies the central position in the north front at the base of the tower, is 16 feet in height and attracts immediate attention when one enters the hall. It is a most interesting example of the glass worker's art and is divided into several compartments, the central one of which is a figure of the Muse of Poetry, whose features portray the likeness of her to whose memory the building was erected. In the upper central portion is a sitting figure of Shakespeare, while the subordinate compartments on the right and left are filled with conventional ornamentation and tablets bearing the names of the principal American poets.

The public dedicatory exercises were held in the afternoon of January 30th in the Congregational Church. The audience which filled the building to overflowing was evidence of the enthusiasm felt by the townspeople. The different ministers of the town, the choir of the Church of the Messiah of New York, Mr. H. H. Rogers, Rev. Robert Collyer, and Mr. George H. Tripp of the Board of Trustees, took part.

THE PRESENTATION SPEECH OF MR. HENRY HUTTLESTON ROGERS FOLLOWS

"The germ of the Millicent Library had its origin in the darkness of a great grief, and pressed its tendrils into our hearts

through a little story that was told us of the dear girl whose memory we adore and desire to perpetuate. The story was expressive of what was in her thoughts a few weeks before her death, and coupled with the love she held for books, there came to our children a common desire to erect a library in tribute to her memory. The suggestion was so pleasing to us as parents that it found a ready acceptance, and with a feeling of thankfulness to heaven for the blessings which would enable us to carry out the work, we undertook the charming task.

The development of the germ you have watched as time has been passing until it stands before you today in its completed form, prepared to begin, as we hope, a life of educational and pleasing purpose. We have tried to give the library an individuality in harmony with the character and personality, as we cherish them, of the loved one whose loss we mourn. If we have built better than was required by the measure of practical needs, it was because we were working to an ideal that we desired should stand for the best in worth and beauty.

On behalf of my children — and the feeling is shared by Mrs. Rogers and myself — I desire to thank you most heartily for the kindly spirit you entertain for the Millicent Library.

We all appreciate the friendly action of the town as expressed at the meeting on December 10, and the kindly spirit that prevailed.

We would publicly thank the Fairhaven Library Association for the generous gift of books and express our gratitude for like contributions from private individuals.

We are all growing stronger in reverence for the men and women who made the early history of the Old Colony, and cherish most sacredly everything that stands in evidence of their existence.

As the library has facilities for the safe keeping of valuable documents, and intends to encourage the preservation of historical manuscript, we have to ask that if you have a deed or letter relating to this earlier time that you would like preserved for the pleasure its examination will give the public, the library will gladly receive and care for it.

The future will reveal the good of the library, the purpose of which is to promote education and good fellowship. We want

it used. We want every man, woman and child, who is entitled to its privileges, to feel that it is in part his own property. We hope that everybody can find something to instruct and amuse.

It is our hope that all will be interested to give the largest possible circulation to the books, that the rooms will be freely used by the people, and that there will never be permitted to grow the feeling that it is intended for the few rather than for the many.

The Reading Room, 1943

I am sure that the trustees who have been selected, as you must have observed, for local reasons, as well as for their characters and intelligence, have caught the spirit of our desires, and will conduct the library in the broadest manner, for the benefit of our entire community, including as well the 'stranger within our gates,' and such of our neighbors at the north, east and

west of us as may compliment us by drawing on the good things that will be offered.

We can hardly expect that the library's influence will have the effect of interesting all our people, but it is our belief that as the years come and go the younger people particularly will become permanently attached to the library through finding it a source of pleasure and profit. Still, we are desirous of leaving nothing undone to induce an interest in the library by everybody, and that we may have the cooperation of our elders, they are to be favored by having the first opportunity of taking out books. To that end the hour between 9 and 10 o'clock on Wednesday will be reserved for those of our friends who will confess by their presence to have reached the allotted three score years and ten, and we hope they will show us through a full attendance of their interest, and that their blessings as a sweet benediction are offered for the Millicent Library."

FROM THE SPEECH OF REV. ROBERT COLLYER

"Citizens of Fairhaven and Friends: — When I heard about the purpose of your old townsman and his family to found this free library in Fairhaven, I said on the impulse of the instant I should like to come down when it was opened and say some word touching the worth of such a gift to your town and the region round about . . .

May I not say also that for one in this company I can feel all the more surely the worth of such a gift, because if it had fallen to my own lot to have the money to spare for it as one of the sons of Fairhaven, I am by no means sure that I should have had the heart to spend it in this wise and generous fashion.

. . . A man said to me once who was very rich, that it is hardly fair to expect those who have made a great deal of money will give a great deal also for this reason, that the hand which grasps is so apt to take the strength out of the other which ought to give, and so the result is what one might call a greenback paralysis, in which the right hand does not know what the left hand doeth, because there is nothing to tell. So it is and has been with a great many who have grown rich, but here is the truth about the man you raised here and sent forth to seek his fortune and to find it, that he has made a noble use of both hands, as I know very well, keeping them strong alike for

the gathering and the giving, or we should not be here today to witness this fair gift from himself and the household of the Rogers. . . . It has been done for the love of Fairhaven and for another love sweeter still, that the name of the dear daughter who rests now in Heaven may never be forgotten here, but may be remembered in perpetual benediction. . . .

And so this is the supreme worth of the gift as it comes home to a life long lover of the treasures which will be stored in this library, and who knows well what the longing must have been and the blessing which came to meet his desire who sang a good three hundred years ago:

'Oh for a book and a quiet nook
Either indoor or out;
With the green leaves whispering overhead
Or the street cries all about.
Where I may reade all at my ease
Both of the New and Olde,
For a right good booke wherein to looke
Is better to me than golde.'

. . . So the youth in this region, . . . will haunt this library while their life is in the morning tide and find the treasures here free as the water springs in the hills above you to slake their thirst, and then the time will come when those who live will see another worth beside this of the instant delight and satisfaction. . .

But who can guess what might have been the story of Fairhaven if this wealth of good books could have been yours, when the thirst for what they can give us was running and reaming in the blood of some who sleep in the sadly neglected spot, and then who can tell what the blessing and fruitage of this library will be in the time to come. I cannot tell. I can only imagine how such eager young hearts will drink deep at the fountain opened to them here and then go away to find others of an ampler volume but no sweeter, or stay here quite content. . . . This . . . is an investment where you begin to draw the interest from this time forth when the waters of life begin to flow from this fountain and the wealth and worth will be for all young men and maidens, old men and children. Whosoever will, may come and

partake of these waters of life freely without money and without price, so run the terms of the gift and dedication . . .

The first time I read a good book, Goldsmith says, it is as if I had gained a new friend and when I read it again it is as if I had met an old one, and John Herschel says, there is nothing like reading an interesting book if you have the taste for it and have the book to read. . . .

'These books are yours
Within whose silent chamber treasure lies,
Preserved from age to age more precious far
Than the accumulated stores of gold
And orient gems which, for a day of need,
The monarch hides in deep ancestral vaults,
These stores of wealth you can unlock at will.'

So a very noble woman says we never call him fatherless who has God and his mother, and I would never call him friendless who has God and good books. The nourishment of the soul was the inscription carven over the entrance to the great library in Alexandria, which was founded almost 2200 years ago, and with more than an equal truth the inscription might be carven here. A taste for books, Gibbon says, has been the pleasure and glory of my life, I would not exchange for the wealth of the Indies. Lowell said at the opening of a free library in England, 'Here you are admitted into the company of the saint and the sage, of the wisest and wittiest in their wisest and wittiest moments. Here you see with the keenest eyes and hear with the finest ears, and listen to the sweetest voices of all time.'

'A good book,' Milton said, 'is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured on purpose to a life beyond life,' and well we may think of this, and be sure that the sweet and sunny-headed maiden in whose name this gift is given will live not only in the blessed Heavens; she will live in this Fairhaven also so long as this foundation remains with its bounty of good books, because it is by living hands, as I said, the gift is given for her dear sake first and then for yours, and her living hands will be forever busy here touching the sacred gift. . . . The lovely lights will steal through the memorial window, and they will look on the presence so sweet and fair and say it was done for her sake, the maiden who was with them but a few years and then was translated so that she should not see death, for her sake and for ours."

IN BEHALF OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE, MR. GEORGE H. TRIPP SPOKE AS FOLLOWS:

"Opportunity for youth, advice and assistance for manhood, recreation and solace for old age; that is what a library means, and the dedication of such an institution in our town means all this and more.

One of the best collections of minor poems in our language was called by the editor the Golden Treasury, and Golden Treasury is a most fitting name to give to any collection of the world's great writings. The wisdom of all ages, the knowledge and experience of mankind are contained in these printed pages, which embalm the thoughts, acts and maxims of generations past and present. If we can say with the Old Testament poet, that 'the price of wisdom is above rubies, the topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold,' we do not over-shoot the mark when we call our library a golden treasure-house. . . .

Literature is the prerogative of no school, no art, no occupation. It is intensely democratic. As you walk among the books in our library you will find something to help you directly in your every-day work. It would take the research of a lifetime to discover unaided what fifteen minutes in a library will reveal. . . .

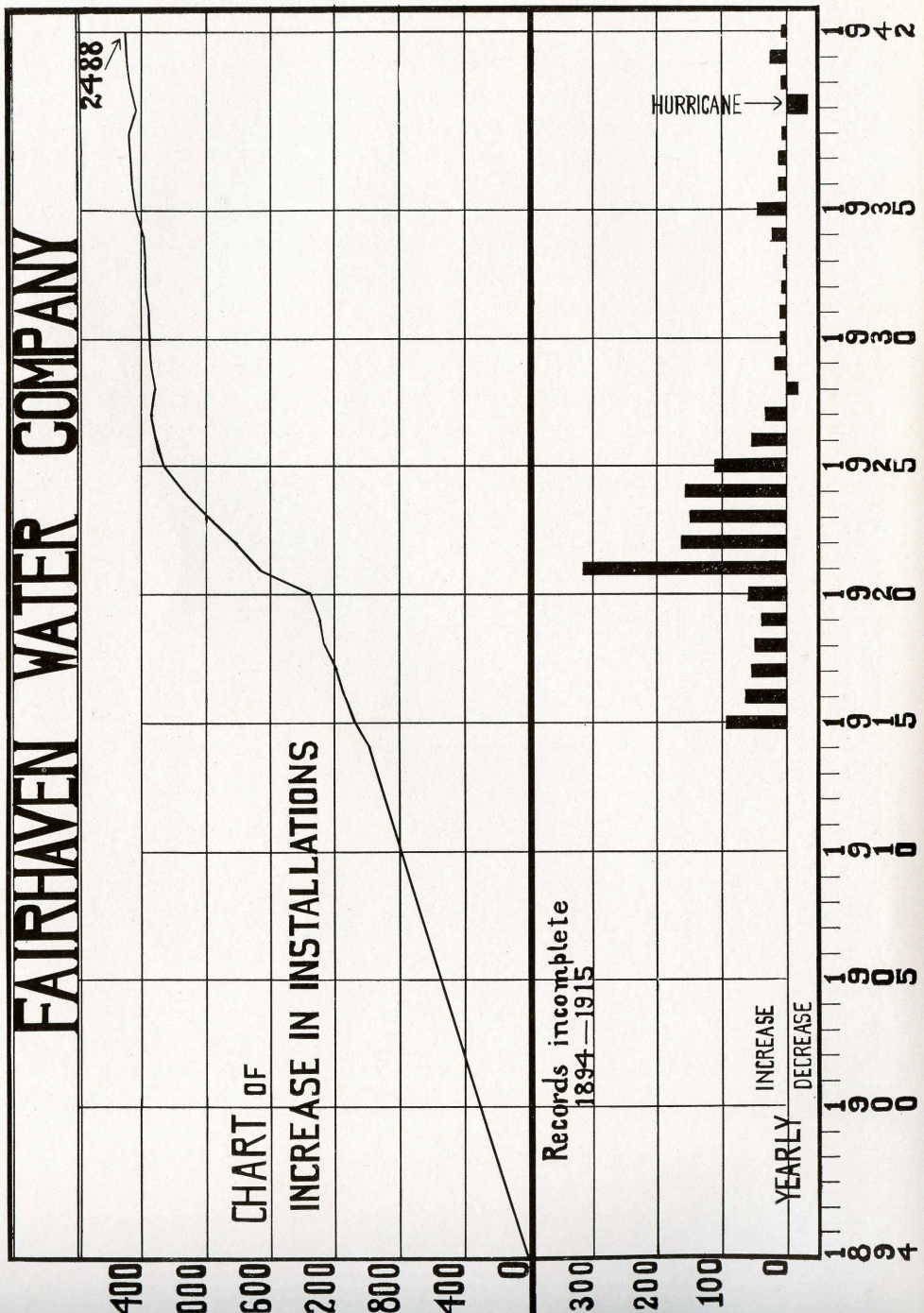
No one man, no one generation ever perfected a great invention, or made unaided a great discovery. Not Columbus alone discovered America, nor Newton gravitation, nor Watt made the steam engine. Every great mind, every great book before that time had its part. 'Books,' said Montaigne, 'are the immortal children of the brain.' Their influence never dies. . . .

The character of a civilization is best tested by its monuments and memorials and by the use made of accumulated wealth. . . . This day sees a beautiful temple of art erected in our midst for the sole benefit and unrestricted use of the people, that unregarded factor of the past, the potent and always-to-be-recognized element of the present. A building like this, dedicated to such a purpose, were impossible before the nineteenth century.

Mantle in Trustees Room, showing details of carving

It is with heartfelt appreciation that the citizens of this town accept the building and the library which it enshrines.

We consider that it makes a notable epoch in our town's history. We cannot fitly express our sense of the delicacy and consideration which has shown an undying affection and embalmed a sister's memory in such a noble and princely benefaction. It is an honor to the town and a credit to humanity. We can best show our appreciation of the gift by using it well, and as a guide we can do no better than study and follow the advice of England's greatest prose-poet Ruskin, who said: 'Books have been written in all ages by the great men, great leaders, great statesmen, great thinkers. These are all at your choice and life is short. Will you go and gossip with the housemaid and stable boy when you may talk with kings and queens? Do you ask to be the companion of nobles? Make yourself noble and you shall be. Do you long for the converse of the wise? Learn to understand it and you shall have it. They will not stoop to you. You must rise to them.'



THE SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY

Comments by Mr. Thomas A. Tripp, President
Fairhaven Water Company

"In the year 1888, Mr. Joseph K. Nye was instrumental in forming a corporation for the purpose of supplying water to the Town of Fairhaven. The first location for a supply was not

Pumping Station, River Road, Mattapoisett

successful. Mr. Nye was persistent. Later on, acting on the advice of an able and experienced engineer, experimental wells were driven in the bed of the Nasketucket River. These wells gave every promise of ample supply for the population of Fairhaven in 1892. The Millicent Library was in process of construction at this time. Its proper endowment was no doubt occupying the mind of Mr. Henry H. Rogers because in the deed conveying the Library to the Town of Fairhaven it was

specified that the Library should not at any time become an expense to the Town. Mr. Rogers and his intimate friend, Mr. Walter P. Winsor, were familiar and intimate with the efforts of Mr. Nye to provide an ample water supply for the town. These familiar lines from Shakespeare might have come to Mr. Rogers's attention:

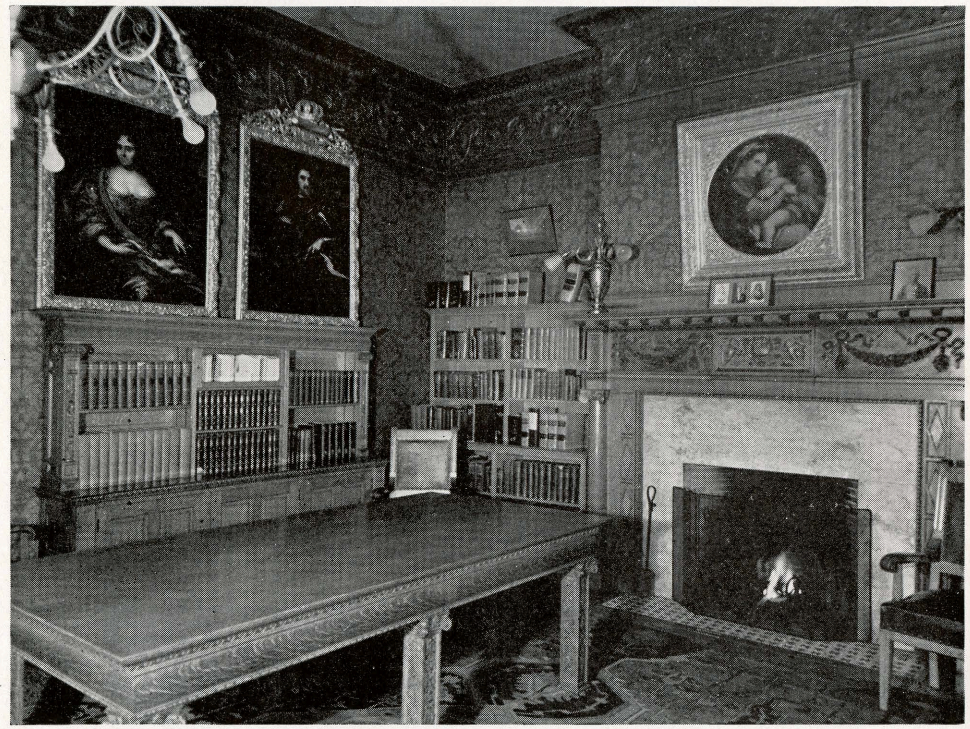
Pumping Station, Mill Road, Fairhaven

'And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones and good in every thing.'

Books in the running brooks might have suggested to Mr. Rogers's farsighted financial genius that as the population of Fairhaven increased, the demand both for water and for library books would increase in like proportion. Mr. Rogers supplied the funds for the development of the Fairhaven Water Co., in 1894 and later on turned over all the stock of the corporation to the Millicent Library for its chief maintenance. This unique scheme for equalization of the income of the Water Co. and the expense of the Library as adopted by Mr. Rogers is believed to have no counterpart in library annals in this country. A further advantage of this arrangement as conceived by Mr. Rogers was the removal of a necessary public utility from the arena of politics. With the substantial increase in the population of Fairhaven, a second pumping station was established at the Mattapoisett river. The entire water supply of Fairhaven comes from wells driven some twenty feet into the pure white sand found in the bed of the Nasketucket river and the west bank of the Mattapoisett river. The water supply from these two locations is no doubt ample for the future growth of the Town. As a safeguard against any unforeseen disaster, the Fairhaven water mains are connected with those of Mattapoisett, and with the New Bedford water supply through the town of Acushnet."

THE TRUSTEES

Mr. Henry H. Rogers was the first president of the Board of Trustees, and upon his death in 1909, his son was elected to this office, holding it for the remainder of his lifetime until 1935. The honor then fell to Lady Fairhaven, the daughter of Mr. Rogers, and although her residence in England made pos-



The Trustees Room

sible only an occasional visit, yet she showed by her interest how much she had the welfare of the library at heart. Since her death in 1939, her son, Lord Fairhaven, has been the Board's absentee president.

According to the By-Laws "All Trustees shall serve for life unless they resign or remove from the town of Fairhaven, or are otherwise incapacitated from serving". The library has an enviable record in having a large board of fifteen Trustees who

have worked together harmoniously over the years. No political element has entered in to handicap the work of this institution dedicated to the diffusing of knowledge in the community. Three members of the board whose names are starred in the list below are original members, who have served for the entire fifty years of the library's history.

TRUSTEES OF THE MILLICENT LIBRARY 1943

With Dates of Appointment

Henry Rogers Benjamin	1940	George B. Luther	1909
Edward L. Besse*	1893	Charles Mitchell	1935
Morris R. Brownell	1909	Mrs. Eliza C. Pease	1919
Elwyn G. Campbell	1942	Harry L. Pope	1912
Miss Edith Dana	1921	Miss Mabel L. Potter	1933
Lord Fairhaven	1939	George H. Tripp*	1893
Mrs. Lothrop Hedge	1939	Thomas A. Tripp*	1893
		Miss Anna B. Trowbridge	1929

FORMER TRUSTEES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Miss Ellen H. Akin	1893-1919	Mrs. Lizzie F. Nye	1893-1919
Edmund Anthony, Jr.	1902-1902	Henry H. Rogers	1893-1909
Mrs. Sarah C. Anthony	1893-1912	Henry H. Rogers, Jr.	1909-1935
Lyman C. Bauldry	1913-1939	Don C. Stevens	1893-1901
William E. Benjamin	1893-1940	George W. Stevens	1893-1908
Miss Sara B. Clarke	1912-1933	Mrs. H. H. Stillman	1919-1920
Miss Georgia E. Fairfield	1920-1928	George H. Taber	1893-1901
The Lady Fairhaven	1893-1939	Job C. Tripp	1902-1917
William B. Gardner	1917-1941	Charles W. White, Jr.	1902-1904
James L. Gillingham	1893-1912	Walter P. Winsor	1893-1911
Frederick B. Lyman	1904-1909	Mrs. Mary B. Winsor	1893-1921

THE LIBRARIANS

The librarians who have served the Millicent Library are as follows:

Don C. Stevens	1893-1901	Galen W. Hill	1911-1926
Drew B. Hall	1901-1911	Louis Felix Ranlett	1926-1928
		Avis M. Pillsbury	1928-date

THE GROWTH OF THE MILLICENT LIBRARY OVER FIFTY YEARS

EXTRACTS FROM THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT, AND COMMENTS ON THE LIBRARY'S GROWTH

By
Avis M. Pillsbury
Librarian of The Millicent Library

Quoted sections are from the 1942 annual report.

"BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, O TIME, IN YOUR FLIGHT."

"On a memorable day, almost a half century ago, January 30, 1893, amidst the splendor of orchids and roses, palms and ferns, the stage was set for a grand opening, and the deep-rooted desire of those who had struggled with patient endeavor, even as early as 1828 to establish a library in Fairhaven, was about to be realized in a more glorious way than even the most bold among them had ever dared to dream.

For approximately sixty years, the idea of a library for the town had been germinating. In 1860, the first library was established and its scant collection of books was available to the public for only a few hours a week. Plays and festivals were produced at intervals to secure money for books. In 1884, the Thalia Society came into being, their constitution stating that 'We, the undersigned, ladies and gentlemen of Fairhaven, desirous of procuring a building suitable for library purposes, do hereby form ourselves into an association for the purpose of giving dramatic entertainments to secure funds for this end.'

So, on this dedication date, when fond hopes were to be realized through the kindly generosity of those who cherished the memory of a younger sister, the footlights flared brilliantly against the curtain, as the play which was to have a continuous run into an unknown future was about to begin.

That this was *an occasion,* was evidenced by the fact that nearly all the stores closed during the dedication exercises and that approximately 1400 people turned out, many standing during the service which was held at the Congregational Church.

Immediately afterwards, when the curtain rose during the grand tour of inspection, there was revealed to the people of Fairhaven a vast wealth of literary resources, the actors being no other than the great of all times and places, and those personages in literary history whose names will live as long as books shall endure.

On January 31st, 1893, the rush for season tickets began and 302 were issued, and 181 more on the following day. In this novel theatre, no admission was to be charged, and it was to pay to its audience larger and larger dividends as its repertory enlarged. And then, on February 1st, the anniversary of the birth of Millicent Gifford Rogers, began the performance which was to continue from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. each day of each year in a long unbroken sequence, until September 1918, when the curtain dropped for the first intermission, not from choice but by order of the Board of Health during the influenza epidemic. This intermission was a month's duration, and a second one occurred from May 9th to June 13th, 1920, when scarlet fever broke out. Though the reasons were unfortunate, they gave opportunity for certain renovations. No further intermissions have as yet become necessary, and the play has continued, not always the same, but changing, keeping in tune with the march of progress. New scenes, new costumes, new methods have replaced old ones, new actors and actresses have stood in front of the limelight. Some have had only short runs of popularity, a few have made sensational hits, a number have been called back for repeat engagements, and the most successful have found a permanent place among the old favorites on the bookshelves. Bulletins, published quarterly or oftener have, since 1899, announced the appearance of new actors, and newspapers and broadsides have foretold many changes.

There have been seasons of comedy and seasons of tragedy, and their effect upon the audience has made an interesting record. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is the fact that in this, the fiftieth season, the grim spectacle of war has, as it did in the twenty-fifth season, projected itself before the spectators, robbing many of accustomed pleasures.

The smooth functioning of this drama which has unfolded bit by bit over five decades, and has created an ever widening interest on the part of the spectators, is due in large measure to an open-minded Board of Trustees, — directors, appointed on a long term basis, and not for a short political one as in many like organ-

izations. Thus, over the years, they have watched developments with a long range vision, sensing the needs, and as the directing force, have cooperated loyally and harmoniously with the five stage managers who have been responsible for the daily performance of the stage hands."

With the passing years, new rules, new regulations, new services evolved, for one purpose — SERVICE to the library's patrons. Bulletins soon listed new books added. In 1901 a system allowing borrowers to reserve books was put into effect and has been serving ever since. How great some of the changes have been may be fully understood only by realizing what were some of the early rules. At first *only one book was allowed at a time.* This rule was soon changed permitting more than one if needed for purposes of study and if approved by the librarian. Now, an adult may borrow at one time, a combination of several non-fiction books on various subjects, as many as three books of fiction, together with a new magazine, a stereoscope and pictures, — in fact, one may borrow more books than would make a convenient armful. Another rule was that *people could go into the stacks but could not remove the books from the shelves without permission from the librarian.* Indications are that this was not for long either a practical or popular rule, and a change allowing complete stack privileges evidently brought about the incentive to browse. A frequent comment now, especially from our out-of-town borrowers, is in appreciation of this ruling.

To extend service to the rapidly growing, north section of town, a branch library was opened in May 1915 in a room at the Oxford School. This has been maintained constantly since that time.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ

Until December 1904, *children under eleven years of age could not have a card.* Now, a child may become a borrower as soon as he or she has mastered the art of writing his or her name in ink. Wee tots, even as young as three years old, when accompanied by a parent, often chose their own books. The need of developing the children's work was felt as early as 1901, so a selection of suitable books was made and a children's corner created. The juvenile circulation for 1901 of 76 jumped to 724 for 1902, — to 15,337 in the library's twenty-fifth season,—

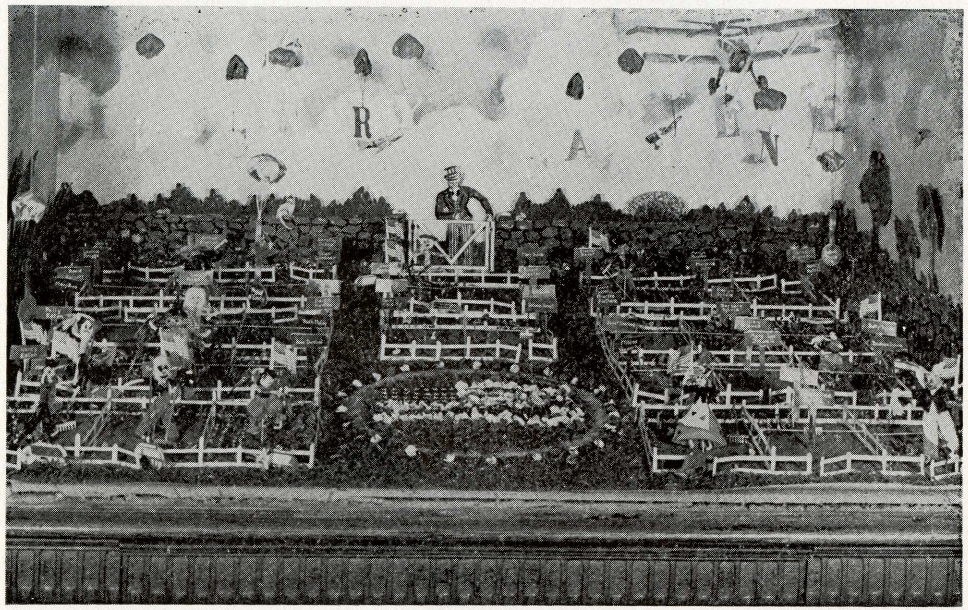
to 29,679 in its fiftieth anniversary year, — with a peak circulation of 37,040, in 1937, an increase of nearly 500 times as many books circulated as in 1901.

Young Readers in the Children's Room

READING CLUBS ARE DEVELOPED

The first indication of a reading club for boys and girls was in 1912, but it was not, however, until 1929 that such clubs became a routine part of the summer activities. As an essential part of the program, combination club and story hour periods have gained in popularity year by year, reaching a record high, average weekly attendance of 110 youngsters during the 1942 summer season. Coincidentally, the Victory Garden Club project held during the 1942 season outstripped all previous clubs in popularity, with a record of 1,660 books read by members from the first to the ninth grades.

In this development of the work with the young people has come the fulfillment of Mr. Rogers's wish—that "it is our belief that as the years come and go the younger people particularly will become permanently attached to the library through finding it a source of pleasure and profit."



"Victory Garden Club" Reading Project, Summer 1942

WE SERVE THE SCHOOLS

Cooperation between the schools and the library has developed steadily. As early as 1909, the plan of sending small collections of books to the schoolrooms was tried. From this experiment, classroom libraries developed and for the past several years collections numbering up to 500 and 600 volumes have been furnished three of the elementary schools located at a distance from the library. These collections have either supplemented or replaced the classroom libraries.

A considerable proportion of books in the High School Library, at present about 750, are on loan from the Millicent Library, and are exchanged or supplemented by the High School librarian from time to time.

Through the combined effort of teachers and the librarian, pupils about to enter High School have for years been given a comprehensive course on the use of the library, gaining much to help them in their school work.

BOOKS FOR OUR PATRONS

Books give vitality to the library, for they are its very life blood. Starting with a nucleus of the old standard books, the selection over the years has reflected the trend of the times and shown the characteristics of the era in which the books were written. The chart on pages 30-31 shows the yearly changes of additions and withdrawals. While the book supply numbered 42,725 at the end of the half century, the year by year additions would indicate approximately 65,000 volumes. The difference is accounted for with lost, worn out or outdated books which have been withdrawn from our records.

GRAND TOTAL OF BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY AT THE END OF FIFTY YEARS

	Adult	%	Juvenile	%	TOTAL
January 31, 1943	35,581	83.3	7,144	16.7	42,725

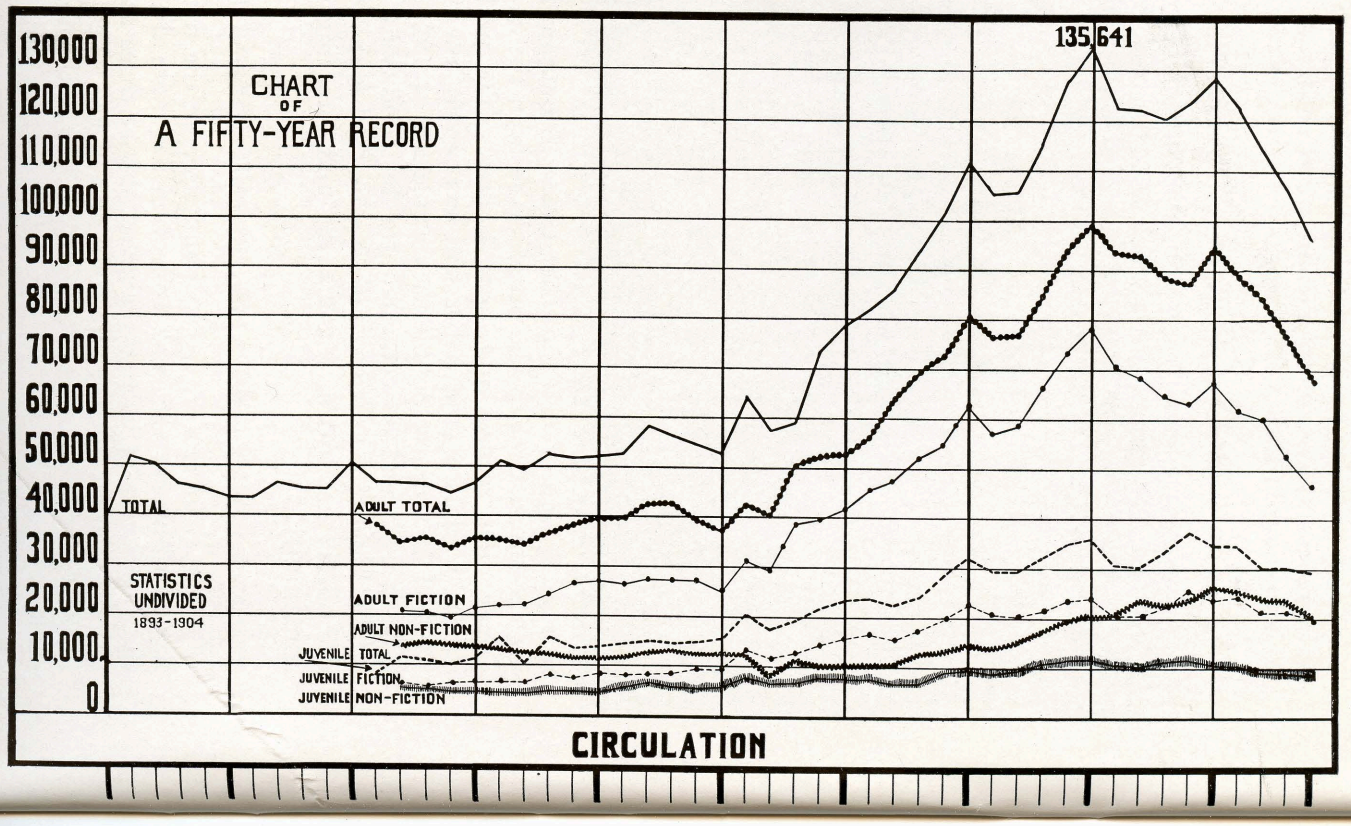
OUR PATRONS BORROW BOOKS FOR HOME USE

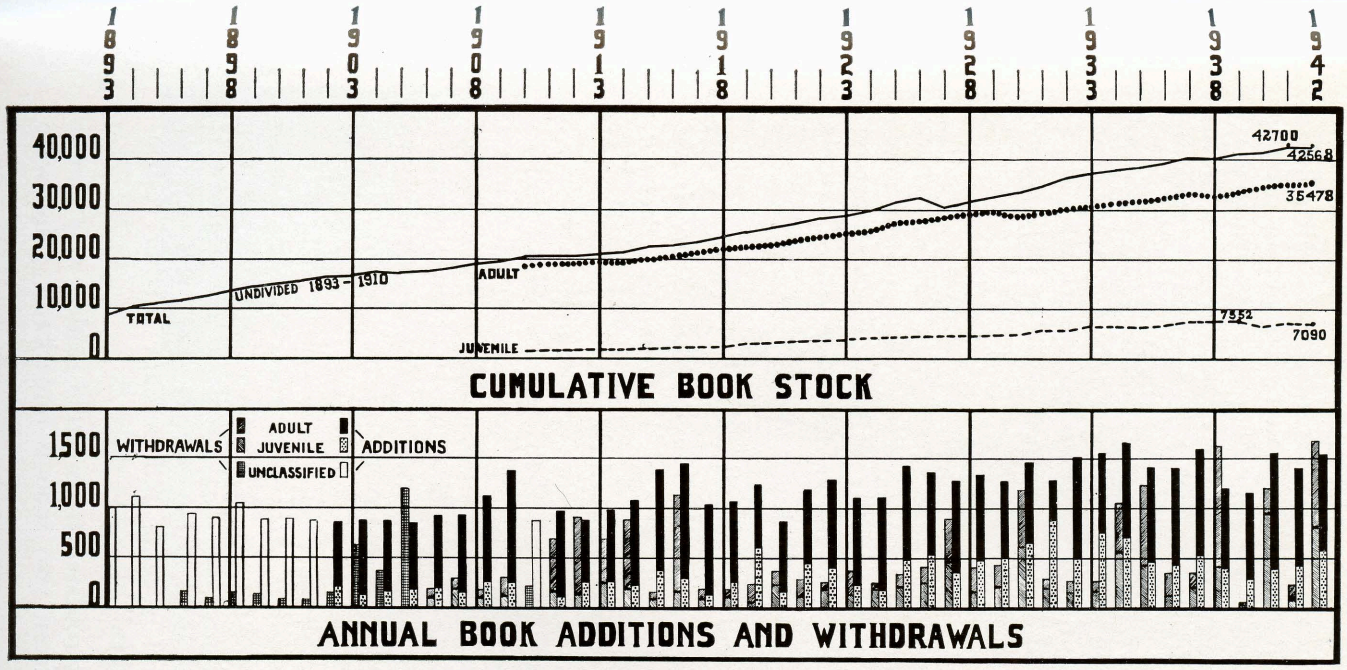
The circulation is the recorded evidence of the use of the library. A definite upward trend began in 1919, and that year marked a high point up to that time. Economic factors affecting the leisure time of the people have been the cause of the unusually high records and short declines. The peak was reached in 1933, during the depression era when the circulation of 135,641 was almost double the circulation of 1921. The present downward trend is accounted for by conditions due to World War II. It is the *gradual, normal* growth that shows the influence the library has had in encouraging and directing reading in the community.

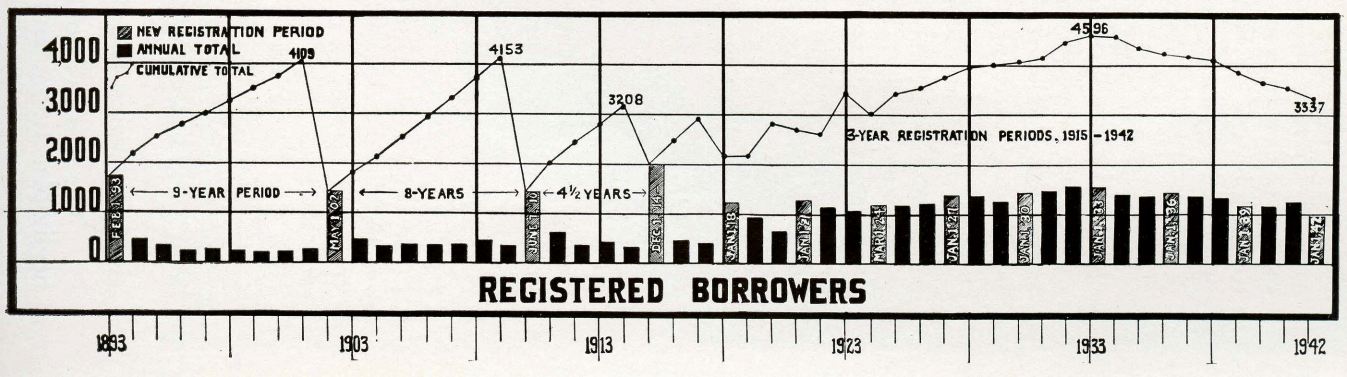
FIVE DECADES BRING CHANGES

The town has tripled its population in the fifty years of the library's history; the book collection has more than quadrupled; the circulation at its peak equalled almost three and a half times the circulation of the library's first year. Yes, *BOOKS* plus *BORROWERS* equal *CIRCULATION,* as the following charts show.

BOOKS PLUS READERS EQUALS CIRCULATION AT THE MILLICENT LIBRARY 1893–1942







For a half century, the library has filled a unique place in the life of the town. It is known for its long hours of service, and its friendly atmosphere. This spirit has been fostered by special activities, such as, — exhibits which have drawn people to the library, — the annual tea beginning in 1928 which has been held regularly since then during the Book Week observance — the library's active interest and part in community affairs.

That Mr. Rogers's invitation to our neighbors "to draw on the good things that will be offered" was accepted is evident by the large proportion of out-of-town borrowers who have yearly taken advantage of this opportunity and for 1942 numbered 12.1% of our registration.

There is no sufficient measuring stick to prove what the Millicent Library has accomplished over the years. But for those who have sought and for those who seek knowledge and diversion for idle hours, it has been and is truly an institution of learning and culture which provides for those who wish it *"Medicine for the soul"*.

"AND WHAT OF THE PRESENT?

'Of all the ages, the present hour and circumstance is the cumulative result.' —*Thomas L. Peacock.*

'The wheel of time rolls downward through various changes' and brings us to the report of the work of the fiftieth year. . . Gigantic changes are now shaping the destiny of man, and in the face of epochmaking and frightful warfare, it is inevitable that all activities of a peace-time nature should be overshadowed. Readers in Fairhaven, as in other communities, are doing their bit in this all-out effort to make a free world. Many women have taken places behind machines. Many men have gone into government service. A large share of our registered borrowers are occupied with extra demands that leave them little if any time for their usual reading. Knowing this, the decrease in circulation of 10,260 books or 8.17% under 1941, is not unexpected. We must be prepared for a still further decrease if the war continues, for blacked-out streets, the necessity for conservation of tires and gasoline and perhaps further restrictions will bring this about."

The loss in books circulated to juvenile readers was almost negligible, 1.3%, and from two schools remarkable gains were

A view from the bookstacks

reported — 11.4% from the Edmund Anthony School collection, and from East Fairhaven the amazing gain of 33% following a 49% gain a year ago.

During 1942, the circulation totalled 96,366 books, equivalent to between four and five tons of reading matter. "Of this, adult reading constituted 69.21% and juvenile 30.79%."

"SERVING OUR PATRONS

'The ideal of service is the basis of all worthy enterprise?'

This phrase is the keynote of the attitude of the staff of the Millicent Library toward those who come to it for either the purpose of borrowing books, or to read or look up information. Among those who come may be seen the groceryman, sometimes with his white apron, the carpenter, engineer, electrician or plumber, the business man and lawyer, the minister and school teacher, the busy housewife and the children, and more recently the soldier and sailor has appeared.

These people represent a cross section of our community, and they are finding our service of help.

30.3% of the population, registered as borrowers for the three year period ending December 31, 1942, is a good record." Of the total of 3,337 borrowers, 39.5% are women, 20.3% men borrowers, 22.7% girls, 17.5% boys.

During 1942, these same borrowers needed books on the more serious subjects, so in order "to help those engaged in the industrial end of winning the peace, there has been added to our stock the advice of experts on Diesel engines, machine shop practice, electrical engineering, refrigeration, automobile repair, radio and aviation. For others who wish to keep informed on what goes on, there are stories of facts and opinions of actual experiences, of the history that is in the making. These subjects will be found in the many new books of history, travel and biography."

Thus, as always, an attempt has been made to fill the current need of the time.

"AS THE CURTAIN DROPS

'Who keeps one end in view makes all things serve.'
—Robert Browning

The work of the past year has been carried on in the spirit of service. It is immaterial that the year has not been a record breaker from the standpoint of circulation. The cause is no fault of the library. The high quality of service and ideals for which the library has always stood has been maintained. And that is what counts most. Even this could not have been accomplished without teamwork. The local newspapers, teachers, principals and Superintendent of Schools, many others who have contributed time or thought, or gifts or exhibits, have helped in the work of the year. To all of these the librarian gratefully acknowledges the aid given her. The staff has worked loyally, faithfully, cooperatively. The Trustees have continued their support. This the librarian appreciates sincerely.

As this report is brought to a close, it is with pride that we look back over a half century of service rendered to the community. Its high quality could not have been maintained without the unflagging interest of those who have had its welfare at heart over all the years. Trustees and staff members have striven to fulfill the responsibility placed upon them to render the kind of service which it was the wish of the donors should be rendered.

As far as the librarian has as yet ascertained, no other library in the country is open for such complete service from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. every day of the year. Allowing for extra days during leap years and time out for the enforced intermissions, the 3,751,161 books circulated since the opening of the library have gone out on an average of one book in about every 3½ minutes. We look forward to more and greater service as we face the uncertainty of the future.

President Roosevelt has recently said, "In this war, we know books are weapons," Elmer Davis, Chief of the Office of War Administration has voiced his opinion, saying "The librarian has around him the books in which the facts are presented, the problems are posed, and the facts are made evident. In the present war, as never before, this duty of the librarian assumes a pressing importance and librarians carry a responsibility such as they have never carried in our history."

The Millicent Library, along with other libraries will meet the test of critical times. We shall go forward, continuing to carry the torch that was lighted on February 1st, 1893."

Respectfully submitted,

AVIS M. PILLSBURY,
Librarian.

January 12, 1943

ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE MILLICENT LIBRARY

UNUSUAL BOOKS

Book of clippings about Henry Huttleston Rogers.

"The dress of the first regiment of lifeguards in three centuries", by U. H. R. Broughton (Grandson of Mr. H. H. Rogers).

"The Arctic regions", by William Bradford (Fairhaven artist).

"Bristol Gazette", an incomplete volume (1792-1813) of the first newspaper published in Fairhaven.

Four autographed volumes from the Works of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Biography of Manjiro Nakahama, written in Japanese, including illustrations of scenes in Fairhaven.

"Tales of shipwreck in the Pacific", by Manjiro Nakahama, (four volumes beautifully illustrated, and descriptive of the author's life), written in Japanese.

AUTOGRAPHS:

Collection of framed portraits and autographed letters representing each president of the United States.

Manuscript speech delivered by Mark Twain at the dedication of the Fairhaven Town Hall, February 22, 1894.

Letter written by Mark Twain to the Trustees of the Millicent Library (See page 4 of this booklet).

ODD ITEMS:

Samurai Sword, a gift to the Town in 1918 in honor of Captain Whitfield, who, in 1841, rescued Manjiro Nakahama, a shipwrecked Japanese lad, bringing him to Fairhaven where he was treated as one of the family and given an education.

Interesting Sea Passports and Sea Letters.

File of local history material, including an old map of Fairhaven, showing early homes.

PAINTINGS, PORTRAITS AND STATUARY:

Photographs of Henry Huttleston Rogers.

Photograph of Lord Fairhaven, son of Lady Fairhaven.

Portrait painting of Lady Fairhaven, daughter of Henry Huttleston Rogers.

Photograph of Millicent Gifford Rogers for whom the library is named, and whose likeness is also reproduced in the stained glass window.

Two paintings by Arnold van Boonen of "*Peter the Great*" and "*Catharine of Russia*", gifts from the Clara Bennett estate.

Portrait painting by Albert Bierstadt, New Bedford artist, of "*Martha Simon,*" the last surviving Narragansett Indian in this locality.

Water color painting by R. Swain Gifford, New Bedford artist, of the "*Old Salt Works*".

A fine copy of Raphael's famous painting of the "*Madonna of the Chair*".

Two etchings by L. D. Eldred, New Bedford artist, of waterfront scenes in New Bedford.

Charcoal drawing, by John H. Bryant, New Bedford artist, of the "*Whaling Vessel John Howland*".

Painting—"*At the Bath*" by Maldarelli Napoli.

Statue by Emmanuele Caroni, of "*The Messenger of Love*".

Torso of "*Psyche*" the work of T. Soloni. The original, in Naples is supposed to be the work of Praxiteles.

The Golden Jubilee

The Trustees of the Millicent Library
Fairhaven, Mass.
extend a cordial invitation to

.....

to be present on Sunday
the thirty-first of January, nineteen hundred and forty-three
between three and six o'clock
on the occasion of Open House at the Millicent Library
in commemoration of
the Fiftieth Anniversary of its opening

Thus read the invitation which was sent to individual guests, among whom were members of the Rogers Family, former librarians and special friends, while to the general public and patrons of the Library, a cordial invitation was extended through press announcements in the local newspapers of Fairhaven and New Bedford. In addition, on the day of celebration, the New Bedford Standard-Times carried a full page rotogravure section of pictures of the Library, and a well written historical sketch that attracted attention and created much favorable comment and publicity.

So it was, that on fifty years from the day on which the Millicent Library was first opened for public inspection, townspeople and friends again assembled to pay respect to the institution which had rendered service to them over the years. Notes of congratulations and gay flowers received from trustees and friends on this jubilee day were an indication of the high place the Library holds in the hearts of the people.

The first occasion, the opening in 1893, was one of looking forward into an unknown future. The 1943 observance was one of reminiscing — of reviewing achievements and progress. In a sense, the Open House celebration was a tribute to Mr.

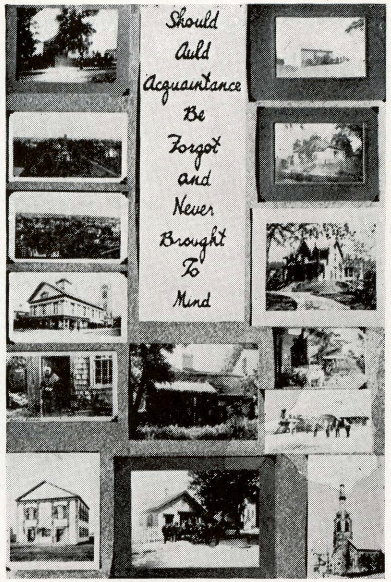
Henry H. Rogers and his family, who, out of love for this community and the memory of his daughter, provided this modern, well-equipped Library, which, as records show, has served its patrons well for two score and ten years without any expense to the Town of Fairhaven.

The Invitation to patrons

The festivities were marked by simplicity and a spirit of good fellowship. The past came alive again. An exhibit of *"Books in vogue in the gay '90's"*, in contrast to the 1943 variety seemed strange in comparison. A poster with a *"Do you remember"* theme pictured Fairhaven fifty years ago. Photographs of the Library, taken soon after its opening, and others taken in January 1943, were compared to show certain interior changes. A graphic chart indicated growth in the Library's circulation and book supply, and in the frequently occurring changes in the registration of borrowers during the half century. The growth, since 1894, of the Fairhaven Water Company from which the Library derives its chief income, was charted. An interesting line drawing of the Library was on exhibit, having been sketched by a student under the direction of Miss Elfreda C. Samuels, art supervisor of the public schools.

The present day was featured in a table display showing a few of the services available in 1943 to borrowers of the Millicent Library. The variety and number of books which can now

be borrowed on one library card were stressed. Books for pleasure reading and for study were grouped by several subjects as representative of various interests among the patrons of the Library, and of appeal to different types of readers.



"Old Fairhaven" Exhibit

The High School Ensemble, under the able leadership of Miss Elizabeth Hastings, gave their time and talent during the entire afternoon, rendering the music of old time melodies that were appropriate to the occasion.

The trustees and library staff welcomed visitors and friends. The Trustees Room was festive with a cheery fire on the hearth, and the soft glow from many candles. An exquisite centerpiece of yellow and white flowers and a beautiful silver service graced a lace-covered table. Strains of music from the Reading Room blended with the chatter, as friend met friend and stranger, exchanging pleasantries over their teacups or glasses of refreshing punch. In this atmosphere of relaxed hospitality, some of the older people, present at the Library's opening in 1893, reminisced about the "good old days".

Although January 31, 1943 will be recalled as the day of the entire winter on which travel was the most difficult, due to the heavy snowstorm the night before, it will also be remembered for the affection many showed for the Library in making the effort to join in the festivities *in spite of* difficult travelling conditions, caused not alone by the weather, but also by the war which at the time had brought about the ban on pleasure driving.

About three hundred people paid a high compliment to the Library by their presence and expressions of appreciation. Thus this memorable day could be called a high light to mark the beginning of a new era for the Library.